

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 19, 20, 29, and 32-36 are amended hereby. Claims 4, 18 and 31 are canceled. No new claims are added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5-17, 19-30 and 32-36 are pending.

Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 4-6, 18, 19 and 26 is allowable. Applicants respectfully note that though the Office Action indicates that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is already in independent form and therefore submit that it and its dependent claims (claims 27 and 28) are allowable without further amendment.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10-17 and 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kagatsume et al., in view of Collins et al., or Pinneo. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 1, 15, 29, and 34-36 to incorporate subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, obviate the rejection. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 and claim 4 has therefore been cancelled as redundant. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance. As indicated in the Office Action, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a match network including a first inductor arranged adjacent the first variable capacitor within the chuck assembly between the chuck base upper surface and the workpiece support lower surface as recited in amended claim 1. (See, Office Action, p. 10). Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to correct their dependencies in view of the cancellation of claim 4. Claims 2, 7 and 10-14 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as well as for their respective additional recitations.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 18, and claim 18 has therefore been canceled as redundant. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is therefore in condition for allowance. As indicated in the Office Action, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a match network that resides between the workpiece support member and the chuck base as recited in claim 18. (See, Office Action, p. 10). Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and are patentable for the same reasons as well as for their respective additional recitations.

Applicants note that claims 29 and 30 are not mentioned on page 3 of the Office Action as being rejected, nor are they specifically addressed in the subsequent discussion through page 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 31-33, which

depend from claim 29 appears to be improper. Nonetheless, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, claim 29 has been amended to incorporate subject matter already indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Specifically, as indicated by the Examiner, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a match network having a first inductor adjacent and proximate a first variable capacitor and electrically connected thereto and the match network being disposed between an upper surface of a chuck base and the workpiece support member lower surface, as recited in amended claim 29. (See, Office Action, p. 10). Claim 31 has been cancelled as redundant in view of the amendment to claim 29. Claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 29 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as well as for their respective additional recitations.

Claims 34-36 have each been amended to incorporate subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a match network having a first inductor adjacent and proximate a first variable capacitor and electrically connected thereto and the match network being disposed between an upper surface of a chuck base and the workpiece support member lower surface, as recited in amended claim 34. (See, Office Action, p. 10). Likewise, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest a match network further having a first inductor adjacent and proximate a first variable capacitor and electrically connected thereto and the match network being disposed between the chuck base upper surface and the workpiece support member lower surface, as recited in amended claims 35 and 36. (See, Office Action, p. 10).

Claims 20-25 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kagatsume et al., in view of Collins et al., or Pinneo and further in view of Rossman et al. Applicants respectfully submit that Rossman et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kagatsume et al., and Collins et al. or Pinneo discussed above. Claims 20-25 depend from claim 15 as amended and are patentable for at least the same reasons as well as for the respective additional recitations therein. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kagatsume et al., in view of Collins et al., or Pinneo and further in view of Wang et al. Applicants respectfully submit that Wang et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Kagatsume et al., and Collins et al. or Pinneo discussed above. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 as amended and are patentable for at least the same reasons as well as for the respective additional recitations therein. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Each of the rejections having been addressed, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of the claims and pass this application quickly to issuance.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



ROBERT C.F. PEREZ
Reg. No. 39,328
Tel. No. 703.770.7759
Fax No. 703.770.7901
Customer No.: 00909

RCP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900